

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 6-8 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 6, and 7 have been amended herein. Claims 5, and 9-11 have been canceled herein without prejudice. Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

I. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indicated allowability of claims 5-6 and 9 subject to being rewritten in independent form. For at least the reasons set forth below, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

II. REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS 1-4, 7, 8, 10 AND 11 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 AND 103

Claims 1-4, 7, 8, 10 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(e) and 103(a). Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable for at least the following reasons. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been amended herein to include all limitations recited in claim 5 which has been indicated allowable. Similarly, claim 7 has been amended herein to include all limitations recited in claim 9 which has been indicated allowable. Claim 6 has been amended to be independent form. Therefore, independent claims 1, 6, and 7, and their dependent claims are believed to be patentable over the cited art. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

III. CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that all pending claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance at an early date. If the Examiner has any continuing concerns about patentability of the claimed invention, he is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at 510-663-1100, ext 245.

Respectfully submitted,
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Limited Recognition under 37 CFR § 10.9(b)

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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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